

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1588/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Kyaw Zeya
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of the Union
of Myanmar to UNESCO
Ambassade de la République de
l'Union du Myanmar
60, rue de Courcelles
75008 Paris

World Heritage List 2019

Bagan (Myanmar) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Bagan" was carried out by Richard Mackay (Australia) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 1 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding development projects, management system components, ungraded monuments and community involvement/private owners. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 5 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 23 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Justification of the inclusion of components 5, 6 and 7

The Operational Guidelines require the components of serial properties to be explicitly justified in relation to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. While the ICOMOS Panel appreciates that all eight components

of the nomination are linked to some extent with the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value, in some cases the necessity of including them is not yet clear. Based on the descriptions of the potential attributes of Outstanding Universal Value inside each of the components, the ICOMOS Panel is not yet clear about the rationale for the inclusion of component 5 (which does not have any attributes related to the three aspects of the justification of Outstanding Universal Value); and components 6 and 7 (which have some relevant elements, but possibly do not meet the requirement that each component be both justified and necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole). For these reasons, the ICOMOS Panel would appreciate if additional explanation of the rationale for the inclusion of these components could be provided.

Should any of these components be taken out of the nominated series, the ICOMOS Panel considers that these areas should be incorporated into the Buffer Zones for Bagan.

However, if the State Party prefers to retain components 6 and 7 and can provide an enhanced justification for their inclusion in the nominated series, the ICOMOS Panel suggests that some revisions be made to the boundaries of these components. For component 6, it is suggested that the boundary be extended at the north-east corner to include the foundations of a residential building used by monks; and for component 7, it is suggested that the 'cut-out' south-eastern corner of the component be extended, making component 7 contiguous with component 1. The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate if the State Party could provide responses concerning each of these possibilities.

Buffer Zone for Component 4

The ICOMOS Panel suggests that the Buffer Zone for this component should be revised, in order to follow the ridge line at the southern end of the component, rather than at the base of the small hill. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could confirm whether this change could be made.

In order to provide the State Party with clear guidance regarding the proposed amendments to the boundaries of components 6 and 7 and the Buffer Zone for component 4, please find enclosed Annex 1 which contains 3 maps illustrating the ICOMOS Panel's proposals.

Legal Protection

The ICOMOS Panel appreciates the Additional Information provided about the timeframe for the proposed amendments to the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law 1998, and the useful discussion in Paris. The ICOMOS Panel considers these changes to be essential to providing adequate legal protection for Bagan and establishing the key parts of the management system (especially development control). The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could inform as soon as these amendments are finalized.

Development pressures

The ICOMOS Panel acknowledges that a huge amount of good work has occurred to establish the management system for Bagan. In relation to specific developments, the Additional Information provided contains extra details about projects involving various roads, transmission towers and the extensions to the airport.

However, the ICOMOS Panel notes there are some older hotels planned for future removal, as well as some new and pending hotel developments that seem to pose differing levels of potential impact on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of Bagan. The ICOMOS Panel suggests that a strategy for hotel development, siting and design is a priority need, and that all changes such as hotels and viewing mounds/structures should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and review by BAGANCOM. The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide an indication of whether this suggestion is accepted, and, when available, the timeframe for its implementation.

Landscape Approach to Management and Presentation

While the ICOMOS Panel acknowledges that Bagan has not been nominated as a cultural landscape, it is in many ways described and understood in landscape terms, including as a 'sacred landscape'. The ICOMOS Panel considers that Bagan would benefit from the implementation of a 'landscape approach' to its management, conservation and presentation. This would allow improved incorporation and recognition of the importance of the river and the water management system. The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate advice on whether this could be incorporated into the overall conceptual orientation of the management system.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information **by 28 February 2019 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we would be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
 Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Bagan Branch
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Boundaries of Component 6

The ICOMOS Panel would suggest that if Component 6 remains as part of the nomination, it would be appropriate to adjust the boundary to incorporate this feature. An indicative outline of the additional area is shown below, but ground-truthing should occur if the boundary adjustment is to be made.

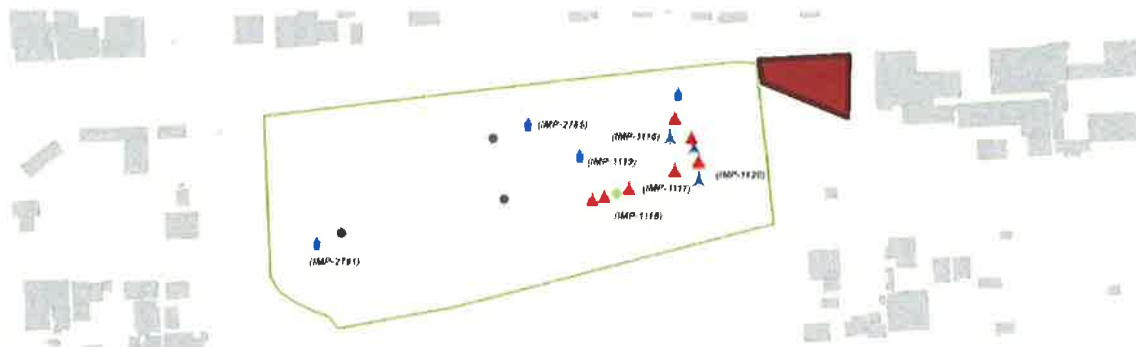


Figure 1: Component 6 showing area to northeast containing the foundations of the monks' house. If this component is included within the property (should it be inscribed on the World Heritage List), this additional area should be considered for inclusion.

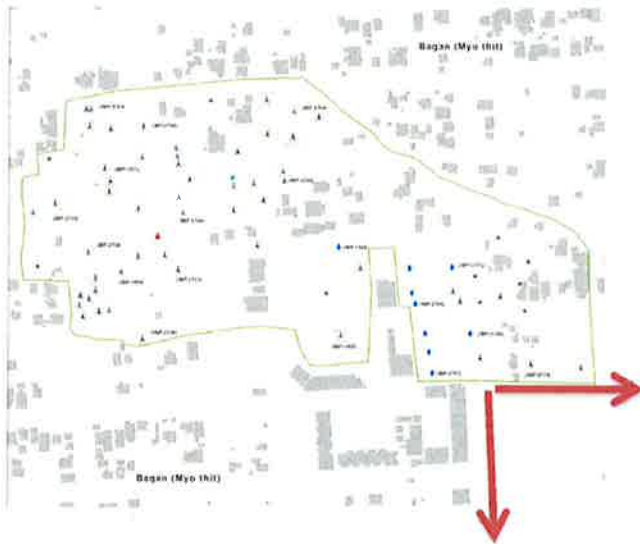


Figure 2: Foundations of former monks' residence, to northeast of Component 6.

Boundaries of Component 7

The ICOMOS Panel would suggest that if Component 7 is included within the property and the property is inscribed, consideration should be given to including an area to the southeast to make it contiguous with and part of Component 1.8.

As shown below, the Component 7 could potentially be connected with Component 1 through an extension/boundary adjustment to the south-east.



Figures 3 and 4: If Component 7 is include within the property and the property is inscribed, consideration should be given to including an area to the southeast to make it contiguous with and part of Component 1.8



Figure 5: Component 7 – open area to southeast which offers the possibility of linking this component with Component 1.8

Buffer Zone for Component 4

The ICOMOS Panel suggests that the Buffer Zone for this component should be revised, in order to follow the ridge line at the southern end of the component, rather than at the base of the small hill.



Figure 6: Component 4: Tuyin Hill. The arrow shows the valley to the south where the nominated property boundary and edge of the buffer zone are in almost the same alignment.



Figure 7: Indicative suggestion for re-alignment of the buffer zone, south of Tuyin Hill; the alignment should follow the ridge line.



Figure 8: Hill immediately to the south of Component 4. The proposed property and buffer zone boundaries both pass between this hill and Tuyin Hill, on an almost identical alignment. It would be more appropriate for the buffer zone to run along the top of the visible ridge.